

**FINAL REPORT  
OF THE  
COMMITTEE ON  
CHILD CARE**



**Indiana Legislative Services Agency  
200 W. Washington St., Suite 301  
Indianapolis, Indiana 46204-2789**

**November 2012**

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# **Committee on Child Care**

## **Membership Roster**

### **Senators**

**Travis Holdman, Chair  
Markle**

**Earline Rogers  
Gary**

### **Representatives**

**Vanessa Summers  
Indianapolis**

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Osceola**

### **Lay Members**

**Cinda Kelley  
Avon**

**David McKee  
Berne**

**Tracie Wells  
Indianapolis**

### **Legislative Services Agency Staff**

**Chris Baker, Fiscal Analyst  
Ann Naughton, Attorney**

**November 2012**

A copy of this report is available on the Internet. Reports, minutes, and notices are organized by committee. This report and other documents for this Committee can be accessed from the General Assembly Homepage at <http://www.in.gov/legislative/>.

## FINAL REPORT

### **Committee on Child Care**

#### **I. STATUTORY DIRECTIVE**

The Indiana General Assembly enacted legislation directing the Committee to do the following:

- (1) Study the system of child care regulation; and
- (2) Report and make recommendations concerning the system of child care regulation to the Legislative Council in an electronic format under IC 5-14-6 not later than October 31 of each year.

#### **II. INTRODUCTION AND REASONS FOR STUDY**

Current Indiana law requires that Committee recommendations must further the following child care regulation purposes:

- (1) To provide support for families in need of reliable, high quality child care.
- (2) To encourage and support high quality child care providers.
- (3) To allow for a variety of methods of child care provision and allow each family to determine the method preferred for the family's children.
- (4) To promote access to available and affordable child care by parents.
- (5) To encourage the state to access all available federal funds for child care.

The Committee's program of study must include consideration of the following:

- (1) The effect of child care and child care regulation on families.
- (2) Encouragement of high quality child care.
- (3) Issues related to the child care workforce, including job satisfaction, compensation, and turnover.
- (4) A review of child care models.
- (5) Ensuring the safety of children.
- (6) Any need for reorganization and refocusing of governmental agencies responsible for regulation of child care.
- (7) Parental rights.

#### **III. SUMMARY OF WORK PROGRAM**

The Committee met four times during the 2012 interim. The first meeting took place on September 19, 2012. The second and third meetings took place on October 9 and October 10, 2012. The final meeting took place on October 29, 2012.

During the first meeting the Committee heard testimony from the Bureau of Child Care (BCC) and the three types of child care providers. During the second meeting, the BCC provided some information on the number and types of complaints with regard to ministry

providers. Persons of interest within the insurance community and child care center providers also offered testimony. The third meeting consisted of remarks from the Committee members regarding the tour of three child care facilities that had occurred during the morning prior to the third meeting.

The fourth meeting saw the Committee discuss several preliminary drafts prepared from the ideas of Committee members. In total, 15 drafts were discussed by the Committee. The Committee recommended 8 of the drafts to the General Assembly for the 2013 legislative session. The Committee also approved of the concept of another draft but did not adopt that draft formally (PD 3414 - Tax credits for certain child care providers and parents of participating children). Please refer to the minutes from the October 29, 2012, meeting of the Committee for full details on all drafts presented.

#### **IV. SUMMARY OF TESTIMONY**

The Committee heard testimony from the following persons.

Melanie Brizzi, Director of the Bureau of Child Care, provided an update on the Paths to Quality (PTQ) program. She also provided an update on the Child Care Development Fund (CCDF) waiver program via a handout that detailed her presentation. During the second meeting, Ms. Brizzi presented a review on the number of complaints on ministry providers received by the BCC. She also explained the differences between complaints that could be investigated and resolved and complaints that could not. Her discussion included the number of deaths for each type of child care provider (homes, centers, and ministries).

Carol Johnson, Chairwoman of the Child Care Centers Advisory Board (CCCAB) stated that the CCCAB's primary concerns were safety, education, and economic development. She spoke about the need for child-to-adult supervision ratios and provided information on the current ratios depending on the age and numbers of children per adult.

Joey Scherschel Buckles, Chairwoman of the Child Care Homes Advisory Board (CCHAB) discussed the phase-in of curriculum standards and the need to introduce a learning environment for children sooner than current standards suggest. She also talked about CCDF funding. Specifically, she expressed concern that child care ministries are required to meet fewer standards than child care homes to qualify for CCDF funding. She said ministries could qualify for CCDF without being licensed, while homes must be licensed.

Barbara Newton testified on behalf of the informal Child Care Ministry Group. She talked about child/adult ratios. She said she personally applauds having the current ratios, whereas, about a third of her constituency does not agree with the current ratios. She also talked about the difficulty of a ministry provider to meet the criteria, due to financial constraints, that are required of child care centers and homes. She also expressed the desire for the Child Care Ministry Group to be recognized formally by the General Assembly.

Jillian Ritter, the Department of Defense (DOD) Child Care Liaison for Indiana, testified on

the DOD's efforts to promote quality child care for its service members. She said the DOD's program is a model effort for the whole country to emulate. She said the program has research-based criteria.

Lisa Robertson, with Reach Out and Read Indiana, discussed her organization's mission. She said the education of primary care pediatric physicians to discuss early reading with parents is important in a child's early educational development. She said a doctor informing parents about reading to their children is a highly effective way to encourage early reading. She said the reason for the success of physician education is that nearly all children see a primary care physician, which is the most likely person a newborn child's parents will come into contact with on a regular basis.

John Zarich, with the Insurance Institute of Indiana, testified during the second meeting. He discussed the concerns of safety at child care centers. He said to have regulations in place can reduce liability for the insurance industry, as policyholders and insurance firms, both, can be informed of new laws. He said that small things, such as educational awareness, can also be an effective tool to also reduce liability.

Kenny Walter, representing Abacus Childcare Management, testified about the health and safety of children in child care settings. He discussed different regulations between child care centers and ministries with respect to qualifying for CCDF funding. He said there are many more regulations for a center to follow than a ministry in order to qualify for funds. He thought many of the regulations that ministries could also meet would not take much money or time to follow.

Lucinda Nord, with the United Way of Central Indiana, outlined the United Way's legislative agenda for the upcoming session of the General Assembly. She said she hoped all the United Way's ideas for the session could be presented together in a single bill.

During the third meeting, no official testimony from the public was taken. The Committee members discussed their trips to various child care facilities during that morning. A full review of the discussion can be found in the October 10, 2012, minutes of this committee.

## **V. COMMITTEE FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS**

No findings of fact were made by the Committee.

The Committee made the following recommendations:

PD 3401- Formal recognition of the Ministries Advisory Group.

PD 3402- Changes definition of "Child Care Ministry" and gives child care ministries one year to comply with definition.

PD 3403- Specifies requirements that must be met by a child care provider as a condition

of eligibility to receive a CCDF voucher payment.

PD 3406- Requires a child care provider to use a curriculum approved by the Division of Family Resources as a condition of eligibility for CCDF voucher payments.

PD 3407- Specifies health and safety requirements for registration of a child care ministry, including care giver qualifications.

PD 3419- Requires care givers at certain child care providers to undergo a national criminal history background check.

PD 3423- Specifies requirements that must be met by a child care provider as a condition of eligibility to receive a CCDF voucher payment.

PD 3428- Specifies requirements that must be met by a child care provider as a condition of eligibility to receive a CCDF voucher payment, including discipline process and background checks.

The Committee also endorsed the concept of legislation that provides tax credits to families that use child care providers that are certified by Paths to Quality and to child care providers that make improvements to their child care programs and facilities to advance through the Paths to Quality certification levels.

## WITNESS LIST

Melanie Brizzi, Director of Bureau of Child Care, Family And Social Services Administration  
Carol Johnson, Chairwoman of the Child Care Centers Advisory Board  
Joey Scherschel Buckles, Chairwoman of the Child Care Homes Advisory Board  
Barbara Newton, Informal Child Care Ministry Group  
Jillian Ritter, Department of Defense Child Care Liaison for Indiana  
Lisa Robertson, Regional Director for Reach Out and Read Indiana  
John Zarich, Insurance Institute of Indiana  
Kenny Walter, Abacus Childcare Management  
Lucinda Nord, United Way of Central Indiana